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The next day, in the French Chamber of Deputies, Premier Briand, with applause ringing in his ears, told of the French Government's acceptance of the invitation in these words:

France replies eagerly to the suggestion for a conference from which we may hope will come the final peace of the world.

I am sure I interpret the sentiment of the Chamber when I thank the head of State who has taken this noble initiative and who thought at once of associating our country with it. It is a homage rendered the pacific sentiments France always has shown in the gravest circumstances. I do not need to tell you that the French Government accepts the invitation eagerly. It sees in the idea the possibility of accords which, as regards the Pacific Ocean, cannot be indifferent to us because of our great interests there. It also sees the occasion to prove once again that our country is ardently attached to the cause of peace.

Concluding, M. Briand said:

France will go to the conference without mental reservations or ulterior motives. She will seek every means to limit armaments, military as well as naval, in order to diminish the frightful charges that weigh upon the peoples, at the same time safeguarding, it is well understood, our own national security. The government experiences particularly pleasure in the fact that the conference will be presided over by President Harding.

In the United States, the President's action was supported generally, even by those elements which thought Senator Borah's program the better method of procedure. His disarmament resolution called for a conference between the United States, Great Britain, and Japan for reduction of naval armaments, and he contended that such a step would offer more hope of practical accomplishment than a larger undertaking. In that the majority of Congress joined him with their votes. Nevertheless, Mr. Borah and those who thought with him have given the President, it seems, their best wishes. And there is a general feeling that the probability that the whole question of world peace will be threshed out again may compensate for any dangers that may attend treatment of subjects other than reduction of naval armaments by the three great naval powers.

HOUSE BESTS SENATE ON PEACE RESOLUTION

Chairman Porter, of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and his supporters in the lower branch of Congress have the better of the compromise that was reached between the House and Senate in the disagreement over the Porter and Knox peace resolutions. The agreement in conference between Senators Knox and Lodge and Representatives Porter and Rogers built the compromise peace resolution upon the Porter resolution and added to it, in somewhat revamped form, the provisions of the Knox resolution specifically reserving American rights, and also added provisions to prevent legal complications with the act of March 3 last, repealing, in effect, certain war measures.

In a statement to the House, Mr. Porter and Mr. Rogers said, regarding these additions to the Porter draft:

The first of the new sections—section 5—makes more specific the treatment to be accorded alien enemy property. While, in the opinion of your conferees, the original House provisions furnish ample safeguards, there appears to be no valid objection to an additional provision of this character.

The second added section—section 6—is intended to remove any possible argument that the act of March 3, 1921, and the passport control provisions in the act of March 2,

1921, are repealed by implication or affected. Again, the conferees on the part of the House were satisfied that any such criticism would be groundless, but, on the other hand, saw no objection to incorporating an express provision to this effect.

On these questions, whether the Knox or the Porter resolution more effectually protected American rights, the issue was largely one for lawyers, and apparently the four lawyers who constituted the conference committee settled it by the simple expedient of putting both theories into the compromise resolution and playing safe; but on the large question of policy the House won outright. That was whether the resolution declaring war should be repealed, as in the Knox resolution, or whether there should be a simple declaration that the state of war is at an end, as in the Porter resolution. There has been a growing belief for some weeks that in this respect the Porter resolution was better than that of Senator Knox. At least, there has been a growing belief that politically it was much safer, much less likely to offer the critics of the Republican administration a target.

The new resolution, generally regarded, it may be said, as a wise settlement of the controversy over the structure of the formal declaration of peace, follows:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

Joint resolution terminating the state of war between the Imperial German Government and the United States of America and between the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government and the United States of America.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the state of war declared to exist between the Imperial German Government and the United States of America by the joint resolution of Congress approved April 6, 1917, is hereby declared at an end.

SEC. 2. That in making this declaration, and as a part of it, there are expressly reserved to the United States of America and its nationals any and all rights, privileges, indemnities, reparations, or advantages, together with the right to enforce the same, to which it or they have become entitled under the terms of the armistice signed November 11, 1918, or any extensions or modifications thereof; or which were acquired by or are in the possession of the United States of America by reason of its participation in the war or to which its nationals have thereby become rightfully entitled; or which, under the Treaty of Versailles, have been stipulated for its or their benefit; or to which it is entitled as one of the principal allied and associated powers; or to which it is entitled by virtue of any act or acts of Congress; or otherwise.

SEC. 3. That the state of war declared to exist between the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government and the United States of America by the joint resolution of Congress approved December 7, 1917, is hereby declared at an end.

SEC. 4. That in making this declaration, and as a part of it, there are expressly reserved to the United States of America and its nationals any and all rights, privileges, indemnities, reparations, or advantages, together with the right to enforce the same, to which it or they have become entitled under the terms of the armistice signed November 3, 1918, or any extensions or modifications thereof; or which were acquired by or are in the possession of the United States of America by reason of its participation in the war or to which its nationals have thereby become rightfully entitled; or which, under the Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye or the Treaty of Trianon, have been stipulated for its or their benefit; or to which it is entitled as one of the principal allied and associated powers; or to which it is entitled by virtue of any act or acts of Congress; or otherwise.

SEC. 5. All property of the Imperial German Government, or its successor or successors, and of all German nationals which was, on April 6, 1917, in or has since that date come into the possession or under control of, or has been the sub-

ject of a demand by the United States of America or of any of its officers, agents, or employees, from any source or by any agency whatsoever, and all property of the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government, or its successor or successors, and of all Austro-Hungarian nationals which was on December 7, 1917, in or has since that date come into the possession or under control of, or has been the subject of a demand by the United States of America or any of its officers, agents, or employees, from any source or by any agency whatsoever, shall be retained by the United States of America and no disposition thereof made, except as shall have been heretofore or specifically hereafter shall be provided by law until such time as the Imperial German Government and the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government, or their successor or successors, shall have respectively made suitable provision for the satisfaction of all claims against said governments, respectively, of all persons, wheresoever domiciled, who owe permanent allegiance to the United States of America and who have suffered, through the acts of the Imperial German Government, or its agents, or the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government, or its agents, since July 31, 1914, loss, damage, or injury to their persons or property, directly or indirectly, whether through the ownership of shares of stock in German, Austro-Hungarian, American, or other corporations, or in consequence of hostilities or of any operations of war, or otherwise, and also shall have granted to persons owing permanent allegiance to the United States of America most-favored-nation treatment, whether the same be national or otherwise, in all matters affecting residence, business, profession, trade, navigation, commerce, and industrial property rights, and until the Imperial German Government and the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government, or their successor or successors, shall have respectively confirmed to the United States of America all fines, forfeitures, penalties, and seizures imposed or made by the United States of America during the war, whether in respect to the property of the Imperial German Government or German nationals or the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government or Austro-Hungarian nationals, and shall have waived any and all pecuniary claims against the United States of America.

Sec. 6. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to repeal, modify, or amend the provisions of the joint resolution "declaring that certain acts of Congress, joint resolutions, and proclamations shall be construed as if the war had ended and the present or existing emergency expired," approved March 3, 1921, or the passport control provisions of an act entitled "An act making appropriations for the Diplomatic and Consular Service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922," approved March 2, 1921; nor to be effective to terminate the military status of any person now in desertion from the military or naval service of the United States, nor to terminate the liability to prosecution and punishment under the selective-service law, approved May 18, 1917, of any person who failed to comply with the provisions of said act, or of acts amendatory thereof.

President Harding signed the Peace resolution while staying at the country home of Senator Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, over the Fourth of July week-end. He has taken his time, however, about issuing a proclamation of peace, and it is understood that the Attorney-General, Mr. Daugherty, is having thorough study made of the possible legal effects of a proclamation, before putting it into definite form.

UNEXPECTED VICTORIES FOR OPPONENTS OF BIG WAR OUTLAYS

The advocates of curtailment of military preparation, whether on grounds of economy or because of belief that armaments do more to promote than to discourage wars, surprised Washington and probably surprised themselves by winning very substantial victories in the conference committees dealing with the Naval and Army Appropriation

bills. Against the vehement protests of old-time leaders in Congress and over the head of the Administration, as represented by Secretary of the Navy Denby and Secretary of War Weeks, they carried out the substance of their program. Unmindful of dire warnings, they forced acceptance of their judgment.

The result in the fighting in conference over the Naval bill was little short of spectacular, considered in the light of past performances in Congress. For years the Senate has had its way in the handling of Naval Appropriation bills, as in most other legislation involving differences of opinion between the two branches of Congress; but the Naval bill just agreed upon is millions of dollars nearer the total of approximately \$396,000,000 that was in the bill as it passed the House weeks ago than the total of \$494,000,000 that was in it when it passed the Senate some time later. The total of the bill agreed on is approximately \$403,000,000, which is \$91,000,000 less than the old Senate total and only \$7,000,000 more than the old House total.

Involved in the reduction of total appropriation is a reduction in the personnel of the Navy from 120,000 men, as favored by the Senate and vigorously urged by Secretary Denby, to 106,000, which includes the personnel of the aerial and radio services connected with the Navy. The House wanted the personnel clipped clean to 100,000 men, but yielded to the extent of 6,000 men, while the Senate yielded to the extent of 14,000. That decrease in personnel seems to be a direct blow at those elements which have been seeing danger of strife with Japan, and possibly with Great Britain, and have been urging the upbuilding of a great navy; for the decrease is a denial of even the more moderate of the preparedness advocates, such as are to be found in the Administration. The figure fixed in the agreement between the two branches of Congress cuts out all "luxuries" in the manning of ships and permits the employment only of ships that actually are necessary in the operations of the Navy today. Historic hulks, some of them carrying large crews at present, must be put out of commission.

The Army Appropriation bill, as agreed upon in conference and passed through both branches, carries a total appropriation of \$328,000,000. The settlement of the money question between the two branches, as to this bill, was not so difficult, because the Senate bill called for \$334,000,000 and the House bill for \$321,000,000, a difference between the two branches of \$13,000,000, whereas the difference in the Naval bill was nearly \$100,000,000. But there was the sharpest difference of opinion between the leaders of the two branches as to reduction of the army personnel, with the Administration, through Secretary Weeks, vigorously supporting the views of Senator Wadsworth, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the upper branch.

It will be recalled that when the Army bill was in the Senate a total of 150,000 men for the Army, instead of 170,000 men, was forced over Senator Wadsworth's most earnest objection. When the bill was taken up in conference the question of size was brought up again, and also, with even more heat, it appears, the question of time in which to make reductions. The Army now has about 220,000 men; so that the reduction to 150,000 means the discharge of 70,000, or about one-third. The House conferees were insistent that not only should there be the reduction, but that it should be accomplished by October. It was argued to them that only about 20,000 men would normally be discharged in the period between July and October. Senator